

COUNCIL FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

MEETING MINUTES MARCH 13th, 2015

10:00 AM – 3:30 PM

1 West Wilson Street, Madison WI

BOARD:

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Chair – Justin Vollmar | Co-Chair – Denise Johnson | Secretary – Nicole Everson |
| Dr. Karl Nollenberger | Tracy Haas | Steve Smart |
| Vacant | Vacant | Vacant |

EX-OFFICIO:

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| Billy Mauldin | Alex Slappey | |
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ODHH STAFF MEMBERS:

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Dan Milliken | Amber Mullet | Melani Kaplan | Bette Mentz-Powell |
| Carly Bieri | Nancy Harbison | Chantel Young | Shawnee Thomas |
| Caroline Ludka | Jennifer Koehn | | |

Present Board Members: Steve Smart, Nicole Everson, Tracy Haas, Justin Vollmar, Dr. Karl Nollenberger, Denise Johnson

Present Ex-Officio: Billy Mauldin and Alex Slappey

Present Staff: Dan Milliken, Melani Kaplan

Present Guest: Tom O'Connor

CAPTIONIST: Rosie Coulthart

INTERPRETERS: Carly Bieri and Sara Miller

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 10:00 AM

THE APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON DECEMBER 2014: The council members read the minutes. They proposed corrections to the minutes. Justin asked for further details about the letter to John Hough. Justin will follow through with the letter before the next meeting. Denise clarified that the acronyms in the minutes need to be spelled out. Few other council members made a few spelling corrections in the minutes.

ACTION: Nicole to make changes to the minutes. Once it has been corrected, she will send to Melani to be posted on the Council website.

MOTION: Dr. Karl move to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by Nicole Everson the vote was unanimous, all in favor. The motion is passed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

DHS BUDGET: The Office of Governor Scott Walker has proposed the Executive budget for 2015-2017 but it has not been confirmed by the Wisconsin legislature yet. Its changes in the budget will affect the Department of Health Services. I would like to give a big picture of this framework. The Division of Long Term Care (DLTC) and the Division of Health Care Accountability and Access (DHCAA), are may be merging. It may be known as the Division of Medicaid Services under DHS (Division of Health Services.) I am not sure when this is going to happen. The budget will go through the process of legislative sessions and hearings. I am not sure how this change will affect the ODHH (Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing) yet. There will be an increase of \$440,000 dollars for the elderly and disabled. I am hopeful that this increase will bring more funding to our department. As for the mental

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health incentives there is eagerness to address these issues. They are trying to condense ADRC (Aging and Disability Resource Center) as well. The Badger care, insurance, and senior care are all being looked at and we will see how the outcome will look like. They are looking at the restructuring of each department. We may be looking at May as approved date. Deaf, HOH (Hard of Hearing) or Deaf-Blind and direct conversation in regards to this population. The Interpreting Service Fund (ISF) and TEPP/TAP (Telecommunications Equipment Purchase Program/Telecommunications Assistance Program) will not be impacted by budget change. The office operations will ~~are~~ continued as usual and we have no news about if there would be any new positions. Are we meeting the needs of our community, if not what can we do as a council to assist and support ODHH. That way when going to the legislation we can address those needs. We need to focus on mental health services and have a position for mental health for the deaf and hard of hearing. We also need to focus on deafblind persons. Those are areas of concern with Dan Milliken.

COUNCIL WEBSITE UPDATE BY MELANI: The DHS just migrated the ODHH's website to a new software program. This new software will allow us a greater flexibility, for example, drop down boxes, easier maintenance and user friendly. ~~Also~~ We would be able to add more videos in ASL (American Sign Language) ~~and~~ to make the ODHH website more ASL friendly. As with any other computer programs, we expect that there ~~are~~ will be hiccups, learning curves and further revisions in the website. However, DHS have set standards for the website that we must follow. By July 1st, the department plans to migrate all Councils to the new website.

STAFF PROJECT UPDATES BY DAN: Meta Cucinotta was the TAP (Telecommunications Assistance Program) coordinator but is no longer with the ODHH. Someone asked if will the TAP/TEPP position be filled or not? Dan said I am not certain at the moment. We want it to stay in our office. There is a hiring freeze. Some have statutory requirements. But this position is not one of them.

- We are working on developing a TAP program database. We are working with the Public Service commission and universal service fund. We have 2 interpreters, Carly and Shantel. We still have four Deaf and HOH specialists. We have been recently asked to give presentations to **VE (spelling?)** agencies and the Council of Aging groups. We are trying to develop a database system to track our information and referrals as they come in.
- The service fund requests have been continuously coming in. There was only one formal denial. Last year, we ran out of funds pretty early. The priorities list that ODHH has established will ensure that the fund will be on the track.
- Some of ODHH staff will present at the WESP-DHH professional and family conference (Wisconsin Education Service Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.)
- Dan met with Nancy Harbison and the Fox Valley Deaf Club. They talked about what ODHH is and what they do. There is a lack of accessibility and services in that area. There are several issues that has came up. The Fox Valley Deaf Club and HLAA (Hearing Loss Association of America) are working hard together to bring more awareness and services to the area.

The Emergency Disaster preparedness kit. We are still working on video editing with ASL and captions. We are in the editing stage and the end is in sight. The release of kit on the website, hopefully would happen in the next 2-3 weeks. The kit will be housed there. So ODHH will have a link back to the WAD website. At next WAD conference, we will meet about whether to keep the emergency disaster

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preparedness committee as permanent. The committee want to adapt their kit to fit with different population groups.

MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES. There will be a large mental health block grant. The plan is to collaborate with the DHS to see if we could get access to the internal expertise for this. Perhaps we can use a part of grant to increase awareness for the Deaf/HH community. However, due to the restructuring of divisions/departments, anything new may be put on the hold.

WITA (Wisconsin Interpreting and Transliterating Assessment) is the same and there are no any further changes.

ODHH LOGO: ODHH's new logo are going through official channels and should be approved soon. Dan will share with the Council once it has been approved.

DISCUSSION: The discussion about ODHH's logo led to a discussion about the role of the Council. Some members asked questions about the purpose and function of the Council. Dan informed the Council that the DHS will be reviewing all advisory Councils affiliated with the DHS. They acknowledged that various Councils have different functions and purposes. Beth Wroblewski will be overseeing this investigation. Dan will bring Council's concerns to DHS' attention.

LUNCH BREAK

CHAIR REPORT (continued): Nicole and I were speaking about the duties of Secretary of Council. They discussed about who should be responsible for writing the minutes. Dan will discuss it with his supervisor and check the Council bylaws. Dan will get clarification if it can be done by an ODHH staff or the Secretary of the Council? Someone pointed out that other Councils would have a staff who will write the minutes

LETTER TO COUNCIL OF DISABILITY: A grateful letter have been sent.

OLD BUSINESS:

SHAREPOINT DISCUSSION: Melani to discuss using sharepoint for the Council business. You can have discussions, voting, movement, and store documents in a secure place. Any committee activity can be housed here. It is user friendly. All council documents can be found on the left side of the program. It functions the same as a website, but it is private and only open to the ODHH council members. It is secure. If someone from public wanted to view the site, they would need an invitation or need to be part of council. Melani would like to train the Council members how to use, especially to download and share information. There are many useful avenues in SP, such as calendar tab, task/duties tab, due dates can be set, reassign task, discussions, documents and much more.

ACTION: Everyone already have signed up for sharepoint except for Justin Vollmar. He need to sign up be a part of ODHH Sharepoint. All council members need to utilize Sharepoint and practice using the program.

POLICY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE: Justin asked for more volunteers for the policy advocacy committee. The puprose of committee is to talk with the Wisconsin legislative and try to increase the Interpreting Service Fund. It has remained the same in last ten years. Tracy and Nicole signed up to be a

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part of that committee. Karl asserted that we need to use the word 'policy advocacy' instead of 'lobbying.'

COMMISSION: There was a discussion about creating a commission for the deaf and hard of hearing. WAD have formed a committee and is in preliminary stages. WAD will establish a task force and will invite different stakeholders as such HLAA, WISRID (Wisconsin Registry of Interpreters), HV (Hands and Voices), etc. This idea is mostly abstract now and could take 3-5 years. Justin will keep us informed. We can all join this effort.

DVR TASKFORCE: DVR have changed procedures related to the wait list. A matter of fact, they have ~~has~~ waived their waitlist. They have to let you know within 60 days. There is no categorizing anymore.

ACTION: Justin will send a follow through the letter and get confirmation.

MINUTES: Denise would like to see the minutes done within 2 weeks.

NEW BUSINESS: Alex is retiring. He will no longer be able to represent the Council on the GCPD (Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities.) The committee meets four times a year. It is up to the council to appoint a new representative for the GCPD. GCPD will meet with the representatives from different disability groups. The focus is on the big picture of persons with disabilities. They recently talked about the MAPP (Medicaid Purchase Program.) It allows people to work and keep Medicaid insurance. The purpose of committee is to monitor the legislature, promote effective public accommodations, collections and dissemination for all people with disabilities for the purpose of public planning, and at all levels of government.

MOTION: Denise moved to elect Justin as a representative of the Council. Dr. Karl seconded the motion. All voted in favor of, the motion was carried.

WISCONSIN COUNCIL DHH LOGO: Dan said it is up to the council if we would like our own logo. DHS will put up a list of various Councils on their website wondering if we wanted a logo. We can have an opportunity to make one.

ACTION: Nicole volunteer to create the Council logo. She will either post to to sharepoint or bring it to next meeting.

MAKE ODHH WEBSITE MORE ASL FRIENDLY: The ODHH website needs more vlogs. ODHH have made few videos with each staff member. We have a few more to do. The videos did have to go through the EIA process. When that get approved then they will be uploaded into the website. The DHS IT department has been doing good, but they are really busy, so it can take a long time. It is still a work in the progress. The ODHH website should have content in ASL within a reasonable time of frame.

INTERPRETER AGENCIES AFTER HOUR SERVICES: WAD sent a letter to Justin about a town hall meeting in regards to community feedback and current trends. Some have expressed difficulties in getting interpreters for overnight and emergency needs. The community asked WAD to look into the problem. WAD have asked the council check with the interpreters agencies on the ODHH website. Could the Council clarify which interpreting agencies offer after hour services? Denise is working on a similar project for her work and would like to follow through on the behalf of the Council. VRI would be

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good in emergency situations, but we need to make sure that the person on the other side is certified or licensed in Wisconsin to assist with our consumers.

ACTION: When Justin hears more from WAD or Denise on her project, I will update the council.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Denise: The WAD conference is coming up. Registration fee is \$150.00 and you can pay online. The conference theme is "difference is you." Melani: Disability Legislation Day next Tuesday. Denise: 25th ADA celebration this year. Different groups doing different things to celebrate that.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:38 PM